

METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR TRANSPORTING  
NETWORK MANAGEMENT INFORMATION IN A  
TELECOMMUNICATIONS NETWORK

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ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

Network management information (NMI) contained in  
a first set of byte locations of a received frame is  
10 relocated to a second set of byte locations of another  
frame. The NMI is then transported through network  
elements using the second set of byte locations until  
the NMI is to be transported to a compatible network  
element, which can understand the NMI. At which time,  
15 the NMI is relocated back to the first set of byte  
locations of frames destined for the compatible network  
element. The relocation of the NMI from a first set of  
byte locations to a second set of byte locations allows  
the NMI to be transparently transported through  
20 incompatible network elements.